

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-14 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10

ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8538

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT: SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE: FOURTH AND

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FIFTH PLENARY MEETINGS, JUNE 22, 1977

1. SUMMARY: DURING JUNE 22 PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, GENERAL STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN, CANADA, FRG, NORWAY, FINLAND, IRAN, JORDAN, MALAYSIA, INDIA, GDR, BULGARIA, AND THE UKRAINIAN SSR. END

SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE REP (SAWAI), NOTING ARTICLE V COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING FURTHER MEASURES, SAID IT WOULD NOT BE REALISTIC TO AIM AT A COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SEABED, WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT EVEN DEFENSIVE USES SUCH AS THE EMPLACEMENT OF ANTI-SUBMARINE SONAR DEVICES. THE JAPANESE REP CALLED ON PARTIES TO REFRAIN ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS FROM (A) CONDUCTING NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS UNDER THE SEABED, AND (B) FROM EMPLACING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WITHIN THE TWELVE-MILE ZONE WHICH IS EXEMPT FROM THE TREATY'S PROHIBITION. MENTIONING FRANCE AND CHINA BY NAME, THE JAPANESE REP CALLED ON COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT PARTIES TO THE SEABEDS TREATY TO ADHERE TO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ON VERIFICATION, THE JAPANESE REP SAID THAT ARTICLE III PROVISIONS SHOULD BE REVIEWED TO SEE WHETHER AND HOW THEY CAN BE IMPROVED. SPECIFICALLY, HE SUGGESTED THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PARTIES WITH FACT-FINDING RESPONSIBILITIES, BASED ON THE PRECEDENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION. THE JAPANESE REP SAID THAT JAPAN FAVORS CONVENING THE NEXT REVCON WHEN A MAJORITY OF PARTIES REQUEST IT.

3. CANADIAN REP (JAY) SAID THAT CANADA HAS NOT
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IDENTIFIED ANY EXISTING CONVENTIONAL SEABED WEAPONS SYSTEM THAT LENDS ITSELF TO EFFECTIVE ARMS CONTROL MEASURES AND CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO A COASTAL STATE. CANADA WOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE REVCON TO CALL ON THE CCD TO KEEP SEABEDS ISSUES UNDER REVIEW, BUT ONLY ON A LOW-PRIORITY BASIS, NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MORE PRESSING CONCERNS. CANADIAN REP INDICATED THAT THE JAPANESE SUGGESTION FOR A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PARTIES WARRANTS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. THE CANADIAN REP DECLARED THE TREATY HAS OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY AND THAT SUBSEQUENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOT CAUSED ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH ITS PROVISIONS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATING TO ITS SCOPE AND TO VERIFICATION.

4. FRG REP (SCHLAICH) EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE TREATY WILL SOON GAIN UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE. DECLARING THAT THE TREATY HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE, THE FRG REP SAW NO REASON AT PRESENT FOR AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS OF SUBSTANCE. THE FRG REP PROPOSED A FORMULA FOR CONVENING SUBSEQUENT REVCONS BASED ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION: AFTER FIVE YEARS A REVCON WOULD BE CONVENED IF A MAJORITY

OF PARTIES SO REQUESTED; AFTER TEN YEARS ONLY THE REQUEST
OF TEN PARTIES WOULD BE REQUIRED.

5. NORWEGIAN REP (VAERNOE), DECLARING THAT THE SEABEDS
TREATY HAS BEEN A USEFUL PRE-EMPTIVE MEASURE IN THE

CONTEXT OF ARMS CONTROL, STATED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN RECENT YEARS WHICH WARRANT
CHANGING THE TREATY, BUT THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE KEPT

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UNDER STUDY. NORWAY, HOWEVER, FAVORS FURTHER
DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SEABED AS A LONG-TERM GOAL, AND
WOULD WELCOME NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD THAT END. ON VERIFICA-
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TION, THE NORWEGIAN REP CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
COMPLAINT AND VERIFICATION MECHANISM, WITHIN A PERMANENT
ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK, WHICH COULD ENSURE ALL PARTIES
ACCESS TO ADEQUATE INFORMATION.

6. FINNISH REP (BLOMBERG) STATED THAT THE SEABEDS TREATY
HAS FUNCTIONED WELL AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE BUT THAT THIS
TYPE OF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE REDUCTION
OF EXISTING ARSENALS, AND THAT FINLAND CONSIDERS THAT THE
ULTIMATE GOAL IN RELATION TO THE SEABEDS IS THE COMPLETE
EXCLUSION OF ALL WEAPONS FROM IT. FINNISH REP SAID THAT
SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER MILITARY TECHNOLOGY HAVE
RENDERED LAND INSTALLATIONS INCREASINGLY VULNERABLE AND
HAVE THUS ENHANCED THE RELATIVE DESIRABILITY OF SEABED
EMPLACEMENT OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

7. IRANIAN REP (FARTASH) SAID THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE
EVENTUAL AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE LAW OF THE SEA
NEGOTIATION, THE 12-MILE LIMIT WHICH ESTABLISHES THE
BEGINNING OF THE SEABEDS ZONE SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED.
ON VERIFICATION, THE IRANIAN REP STATED THAT RECOURSE
TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS NOT IDEAL, AND THAT IN
FUTURE AGREEMENTS OTHER SOLUTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE FOUND.
IF THE LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN CREATING AN
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY, THE IRANIAN REP SAID,
THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME INTERACTION BETWEEN IT AND
SEABEDS TREATY VERIFICATION PROVISIONS, ESPECIALLY IN
CASES OF VIOLATIONS. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE FURTHER
MEASURES RESTRICTING MILITARY ACTIVITIES ON THE
SEABED, THE IRANIAN REP STATED IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY
ACCEPTED THAT ACOUSTIC SYSTEMS FOR SUBMARINE DETECTION
WOULD BE EXEMPTED. STATING THAT THE REVCON SHOULD
EXAMINE WHETHER IT HAS NOW BECOME FEASIBLE AND MILITARILY
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USEFUL TO PLACE WEAPONS OTHER THAN WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, THE IRANIAN REP DECLARED
THAT IF THE ANSWER IS YES, THEN EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE
TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING FURTHER MEASURES.

8. JORDANIAN REP (SADI) DECLARED THAT ARTICLE V OF THE

TREATY ENSURES ITS INHERENT DYNAMISM, LEADING TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE SEABEDS FROM ANY FORM OF THE ARMS RACE. THE JORDANIAN REP DECLARED THAT JORDAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE VERIFICATION PROVISIONS STRENGTHENED.

9. MALAYSIAN REP (ADLAN) INDICATED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE REVCON HAD NOT BEEN FURNISHED WITH INFORMATION ON TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

10. INDIAN REP (GHAREKHAN), REITERATING HIS COUNTRY'S RESERVATION MADE AT THE TIME OF ACCESSION, DECLARED THAT THE TREATY'S ENFORCEMENT AND VERIFICATION PROVISIONS MUST BE INTERPRETED AND APPLIED BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF A COASTAL STATE IN ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF AND EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE. FURTHER, THE INDIAN REP REPEATED HIS COUNTRY'S OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING THE TOTAL DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SEABED BEYOND THE 12-MILE LIMIT.

11. THE REPS OF THE GDR (HERDER), BULGARIA (NIKOLOV), AND OF THE UKRAINIAN SSR (GRICHTCHENKO) MADE STATEMENTS ECHOING SOVIET VIEWS.SORENSEN

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